# Saint Joseph's Parish

PO Box 623 1318 Ave G West Wisner, NE 68791 Parish Office: 529-3891 www.stjosephwisner.org

**Reconciliation: Saturdays before Mass** 4:15-4:40 pm or by appointment

The Epiphany of the Lord January 8th, 2023

Administrator: Rev. Vincent Sunguti 402-529-3531

Email: vsunguti2018@gmail.com

**Holy Cross Parish** PO Box 212 517 N Fraisier Beemer, NE 68716 Phone: 528-3475 www.holycrossbeemer.org **Reconciliation: Sundays** 8:00-8:20 am or by appt.

Bulletin and Office Email: stjo68791@gmail.com

#### The Epiphany of the Lord



Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord. "The Lord and ruler is coming; kingship is his, and government and power."

Epiphany means manifestation. What the Church celebrates today is the manifestation of our Lord to the whole world; after being made known to the shepherds of Bethlehem He is

revealed to the Magi who have come from the East to adore Him. Christian tradition has ever seen in the Magi the first fruits of the Gentiles; they lead in their wake all the peoples of the earth, and thus the Epiphany is an affirmation of universal salvation.

This feast is celebrated either on January 6 or, according to the decision of the episcopal conference, on the Sunday between January 2 and January 8. The young Messiah is revealed as the light of the nations. There are three mysteries that are encompassed in this solemnity: the adoration of the Christ Child by the Magi, the Baptism of Christ and the wedding feast at Cana. Extra candles and/or lamps may be placed around the sanctuary and in other parts of the church to honor Christ revealed as the Light of the Gentiles. It is customary to replace the images of the shepherds at the crib with the three Magi and their gifts.

The First Reading is taken from the *Book of the* Prophet Isaiah 60:1-6. The prophet is trying to cheer the exiles by foretelling the glorious future of the new Jerusalem which is not yet rebuilt. The special radiance of God will illuminate it. Gentiles will bring their riches to it. From East and West peoples will flock to it. The Feast of the Epiphany is the feast which commemorates the manifestation of God to the Gentiles. This manifestation began when the Wise Men from the East came to Bethlehem to pay their respects and offer their gifts to the newly born king of the Jews. Though the words of Isaiah were not understood by his hearers as referring to this event, it was only in the coming of the Magi, to welcome Christ, that they were really fulfilled.

The Gospel of today's feast is from Matthew 2:1-12. The Magi are the central personages in today's feast of Epiphany. They were pagans who did not know the true God of the Jews. Yet that true God revealed to them that the King he had promised to the Jews had come. The expected Prince was born. They came to Jerusalem, the capital of Judah, expecting, of course, to find the city and the whole country rejoicing. Instead, they found suspicion and hatred in the reigning king—a hatred which in a few days turned to murder. Among the religious leaders they found knowledge of their past history, but utter indifference as regards the present and the future. These leaders knew the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem; they must have realized that the Magi were very sure of the truth revealed to them—they would not have come such a long journey on a "fool's errand." In spite of that, the thought of going to Bethlehem with the Magi never entered their minds. These were the leaders who some years later refused to listen to Christ and in spite of his miracles refused to admit his claim that he was not only the promised Messiah, but the true Son of God. These were men who rejected him because he had mercy on sinners and spoke of a future life. What they wanted from their Messiah was political power and earthly freedom and prosperity. Like Herod they ended

with murder—the crucifixion of the "King of the Jews." The pagan king was not much worse than the indifferent leaders of God's Chosen People. Let us resolve to make the Magi our models, to follow them to Bethlehem and offer Christ all that we have and are.

In Courtesy of Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

From Fr. Vincent's Desk: **Goodbye Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI** 

As you all know, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI died last Saturday, Dec. 31st and was buried on Thursday this

week. According to the customs of the Church, all Catholic parishes all over the

world are to dedicate one Mass to pray for the Soul of the Pope Emeritus. This is in addition to other private prayers that I encourage you to say for the departed pope's soul, his immediate family, and our church. It is also the custom of the Church that 9 days after the funeral of the Pope, are observed as official days of mourning in Rome and throughout the church. It is during this time that Masses and Novenas are said to remember the soul of the Pope.

For the case of our parishes, these Special Masses will be celebrated on this Sunday Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> at Holy Cross Church, Beemer at 8:30 am and St. Joseph, Wisner at 10:00 am. We will use red vestments color during the Mass of the dead since it the customary color to be worn while mourning the death of the successor of the Apostle Peter.

We are grateful indeed as a church for the sacrifice that Pope Benedict did in his entire life for the good of our Church. Although I never met the departed pope in person, I remember most of the Systematic Theology books that I used when I was doing my Theology in the Seminary were written by an author called Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger who would later become a pope. His books are still used today. His philosophical approach to Theology is so brilliant that no author has ever measured to his level. May God grant his Soul eternal peace.

The Saturday Mass at Wisner will be for the Feast of Epiphany.

Have a blessed 2023.

Saint Joseph Parish Council Members 2022-2023		
Ruth Bloedorn—Pres.	Trevor Cyboron– V.P.	
Matt Albers	Holly Schroeder	
Lindsey Burki- Sec.	Carmen Godbersen	
Chris Ruskamp	Matt McGuire	
For contact information, please see the parish directory		

Holy Cross Parish Council Members 2022-2023		
Mike Guenther—Pres.	Trisha Robertson—Sec.	
Mike Gentrup	Karen Spenner	
Robert Praest	Michelle Borgmann	
For contact information, please see the parish directory		

Liturgical Ministers—Holy Cross, Beemer

Weekend of January 14th & 15th

**WORD:** Rita Eichelberger, Marilyn Ortmeier EMHC: Brenda Anderson, Ann Bausch

Sat: Will Robertson **SERVER:** Sun: Bo Oligmueller

### Stewardship of God's Gifts Holy Cross—January 1st, 2023

,	<i>,</i>
Sunday Envelopes:	\$2,560.00
Plate:	114.00
Youth:	4.00
Tithe.ly Online:	100.00
Christmas:	100.00
Christmas Flowers:	10.00
Thanksgiving:	100.00
Solemnity of Mary:	90.00
Total:	\$3,078.00



# Celebrations:

Holy Cross Parish wishes happiness and God's blessings to the following:

#### **Birthdays**

Susan Steffensmeier January 14

#### **Anniversaries**

Ron and Beverly Francis January 14



# **Religious Education**

## ST. JOSEPH - GRADES K-6

**Grades K-6:** The 5<sup>th</sup> grade had a refresher Mass Serving Training course with Fr. Vincent since they will starting serving at Mass in January. The 2<sup>nd</sup> grade is finalizing their preparation for First Reconciliation on January 18th.

# ST. JOSEPH & HOLY CROSS-GRADES 7-12

Grade 7-12 All met as a group for a fun night of pizza, ice cream and also played several games of bingo and the leftright game. Fr. Vincent attended and led opening prayer and Grace Before Meals. We sang "Happy Birthday" to Fr. Vincent since his birthday was this week. This week, classes will meet as normal ses will meet as normal.



Thank you to all who donated poinsettias at St. Joseph Church in Wisner this Christmas! Shane & Tammie Batenhorst in Memory of Beata Batenhorst; Capri & Dave McGuire in Memory of Bill & Mary McGuire and Stephen Fenton; Rick & Sarah Jacobs in Memory of Ralph & Irma Donner and Ken Donner; The Houghton Family in memory of Deborah Houghton; In Memory of Jack Dixon and Dale & Helen Moeller; In Memory of Herb Albers; In Memory of Abigail Borgmann; For the Living & Deceased Family Members of Steve & Anne Ausdemore; In Memory of Vincent & Catherine Ulrich; Chad & Janet Ludwig in Memory of Leonard Schmale, Darrel French, and Arven Ludwig; Bob & Judy Feller in Memory of the Feller and Rief Families; Alan & Sally Harms in Memory of William & Laura Winter and Rudolph & Donna Harms; Arvid & Karen Hass in Memory of Arvid L. & Genevieve Hass; Dave & Carol Oligmueller in Memory of Jayda Oligmueller and Norbert Ruskamp; Chris & Lori Ruskamp in Memory of Alvin & Mary Jo Barent.

# Liturgical Ministers—St. Joseph, Wisner Weekend of January 15th

Jeff Phillips LEC: EMHC: Martha Schweers **EMHC 2: Kathy Johnson** 

Myles Lampman, Paislie Burki, **SERV:** 

Jordyn Gentrup OFF: **Tim Montgomery USHER:** January Men's Group

#### **MONEY COUNTERS**

Sunday, January 8th—Team #3 Steve McGuire, Chad Ludwig, Dave Oligmueller, Kris Brahmer

Sunday, January 15th —Team #1 Mary VonSeggern, Chris Ruskamp, Lori Ruskamp, Steve Ausdemore

#### MEN'S WORK GROUP—January 2023

Chair: **Gerald Gentrup** Co-Chair: Gary Godbersen

Members: Duane Mendlik, Blaine Johnson, Nick Schultz, Scott Mendlik, Dave Ebel, Dixon Godbersen

# Stewardship of God's Gifts St. Joseph—January 1st, 2023

Sunday Envelopes:	\$1,205.00
Plate:	139.00
Children:	14.00
Tithe.ly Online:	40.00
Christmas Envelopes:	700.00
Solemnity of Mary:	260.00
Heating/AC:	330.00

#### FINALIZING THE CHURCH DIRECTORY

FAMILY PHOTOS... If you did not get your picture taken in November when the photographer was here and would like to submit a vertical family photo, please do so by January 20th. You may email it to the parish office at stjo68716@gmail.com. Please use a high resolution photo, and if it is a professional photo, you will need to complete a release form. There is a \$15 charge to submit a photo. You may put it in the collection basket with Sarah's name on it, or mail it to the parish office at PO Box 623.

ADDITIONALLY... We are working on content for the church directory, and are looking for photos that represent our parish. Looking specifically for photos from Trivia Night or the Luau, the Fall Dinner, youth events, or others that represent our faith. You may email them to brendaaprn@gmail.com.

> Questions... please contact: Laura Ritter at 402-380-8639 Brenda Liermann at 402-649-5001 Parish Office at 402-529-3891



MASS INTENTIONS				
Mon	09	_		NO MASS
Tue	10	9:30 AM	WCC	Care Center Residents
Wed	11	8:00 AM	НС	+ Richard Mendlik
Thu	12	8:00 AM	SJ	+ Leo & MaryAnn McGuire
Fri	13	9:30 AM	СНВ	+ John Hassler
Sat	14	5:00 PM	НС	+ Julita Fernandez
Sun	15	8:30 AM	HC	Members of St. Joseph & Holy Cross Parish
Sun	15	10:00 AM	SJ	+ Alvin Barent
S.I. St. Joseph's HC Holy Cross				

St. Joseph's WCC—Wisner Care Center CHB—Colonial Haven Beemer